

What is claimed is

1. An apparatus for closing bags (11) using plastic closures (2) that are individually separable one after another from a closure strip (18) being conveyed in a feeding channel (25), said closures (2) having a plate-like shape and being linked to one another by means of connecting tabs (2a-d), wherein the closures (2) are slid with an opening (16) having a slit on one side onto a bag neck (12) by means of a shaped stamp (5) having a holder for receiving the closure (2), said neck (12) having been gathered into a ruche (13) using gathering means (3), characterized in that the shaped stamp (5) has an associated separating stamp (4) and that the feeding channel (25) is located in the same plane with the closure strip (18), said plane being disposed orthogonal to the plane of movement of the stamps (4, 5).
2. A closing apparatus according to claim 1, characterized in that the separating stamp (4) has at least one finger (4a) and the shaped stamp (5) has a fork head (6) with fingers (7, 8, 9, 9'), and that a shaped stamp (5) and separating stamp (4) are designed such that first the separating stamp (4) and then the shaped stamp (5) are movable vertically upward initially for a first separation process of the closure (2) from the closure strip (18), after which the shaped stamp (5) during standstill of the separating stamp (4) is subsequently movable vertically upward separately for a swiveling process, for a second separation process of the closure (2) from the closure strip (18), and for receiving the closure (2) in the fork head (6), and the shaped stamp (5) is subsequently vertically movable back down together with the separating stamp (4) into a starting position.
3. A closing apparatus according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the fork head (6) of the shaped stamp (5) has two fingers (7, 8) in a front plane and two fingers (9, 9') in a rear plane

located parallel to the former, and that the finger pairs (7, 8 and 9, 9') located in one plane are spaced apart by a recess in each case.

4. A closing apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that a groove (10) for receiving the closure (2) is implemented in each case between two opposed fingers (7, 9 and 8, 9').
5. A closing apparatus according to claim 4, characterized in that the grooves (10) are located in a plane parallel to the front and rear planes of the fork head (6).
6. A closing apparatus according to one or more of claims 3 through 5, characterized in that the length of the fingers (7, 8) of the front plane is longer by approximately two thirds than the length of the fingers (9, 9') of the rear plane, and that the finger (7) facing the feeding channel (25) is designed slightly longer than the finger (8) located in the same plane facing away from the feeding channel.
7. A closing apparatus according to one or more of claims 3 through 6, characterized in that the fingers (9, 9') of the rear plane incorporate a bezel in each case facing the fingers (7, 8) of the front plane.
8. A closing apparatus according to one or more of claims 1 through 7, characterized in that the finger (7) facing the feeding channel (25) of the fork head (6) of the shaped stamp (2) is disposed centrically between the tabs (2a, 2b) under the edge being separated of the closure (2).

9. A closing apparatus according to one or more of claims 1 through 8, characterized in that the finger (4a) of the separating stamp (4) is disposed under the tab (2a) of the closure (2) to be separated during the first separation process.
10. A closing apparatus according to one or more of claims 1 through 9, characterized in that above the horizontal plane of the feeding channel (25), an end stop (26) is disposed on the vertical longitudinal axis centered between the fingers (9, 9') of the rear plane of the fork head (6), about which end stop (26) the closure (2) is swiveled from its horizontal plane into the vertical plane of the fork head (6) by means of the vertical upward movement of the fork head (6).
11. A closing apparatus according to claim 10, characterized in that the end stop (26) is the head of a cylinder head screw.
12. A closing apparatus according to claim 10 or 11, characterized in that the end stop (26) during advancement of the closure strip (18) is a guide means for the closure (2) being separated.
13. A closing apparatus according to one or more of claims 1 through 12, characterized in that the separating stamp (4) and shaped stamp (5) and/or the finger (4a) of the separating stamp are disposed on the fork head (6) of the shaped stamp (5) sliding on one another or spaced apart in vertical parallel planes.